

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

PACIFIC SOUND RESOURCES

West Seattle, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

March 2000

On September 30, 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected the final cleanup remedy for the Pacific Sound Resources site. This fact sheet describes the selected remedy and the changes that were made to respond to public comment.

The Cleanup Decision

For the Upland Areas: The Port of Seattle has completed much of the cleanup work under EPA's direction. The Port demolished all of the buildings and removed approximately 4,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated soil and sludge. The Port also constructed a subsurface barrier wall, or slurry wall, to minimize the release of contaminants into Elliott Bay. The wall extends from the ground surface to a depth of about 45 feet below the surface and blocks most groundwater flow to Elliott Bay. Monitoring wells were also installed. In late 1997, the site was covered with clean fill and an asphalt cap. The Port has redeveloped the site and it is now used for container transfer.

The Longfellow Creek overflow channel, which borders the western boundary of the site, was cleaned out and 25 cubic yards of contaminated sediments were removed from the outfall area.

The Port will maintain the existing asphalt cap and the groundwater will be monitored to ensure that there is no further contamination into Elliott Bay.

For the Marine sediments: Several of the old wooden piers that are no longer in use will be removed. Approximately 3,500 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be dredged to maintain navigational access and the most highly contaminated sediments will be consolidated and capped with clean sediment. To prevent boats from dropping anchors and disturbing the cap, a "no anchorage zone" will be enforced. The sediment cap will be monitored to ensure its effectiveness. This month,

EPA began working with contractors on the cleanup design and schedule.

Changes from the Proposed Plan

EPA received several comments on the proposed plan during the public comment period from April 7 to May 7, 1999. The original proposal said that the 3,500 cubic yards of dredged material would be placed within the area to be capped with the rest of the contaminated sediment. EPA received a comment urging the use of an upland disposal site rather than placement of the dredged material back into the marine environment. EPA agreed and made this change in the final remedy.

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Background

Pacific Sound Resources (PSR) operated as a wood preserving facility on SW Florida Street in West Seattle from 1909 until 1994. Creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP), and various metal-based solutions of copper, arsenic and zinc were used as wood preservatives. Daily operations, as well as spills, leaks and storage of treated wood products resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. Direct discharge or disposal of process wastes and indirect transport (erosion and runoff) were the most likely sources of contamination to the marine sediment.

EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in May 1994, making it eligible for investigation and possible cleanup under the federal Superfund Program. Shortly after the site went on the NPL, the Port of Seattle purchased it in an agreement called a prospective purchaser's agreement. Under the agreement, the Port of Seattle provided cleanup funds and services for the upland portion of the property. The agreement protects the Port from future liability for additional clean up costs associated with past contamination.

In addition to the 3 foot cap, the proposed cleanup also specified that institutional controls (restrictions), would be used in the near shore area to restrict shellfish harvesting. EPA received public comment that these institutional

controls would impact tribal treaty rights. EPA revised the cleanup plan to include placement of additional clean material in the near shore area (no less than 5 feet) which will allow for unrestricted harvest of shellfish.

The Information Repository

If you would like to review the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Studies, Risk Assessments, or other documents for the Pacific Sound Resources site, please visit the following location:

EPA Records Center, 1200 Sixth Avenue, 7th Floor, Seattle
(Please call 206-553-4494 to arrange a time to look at the documents.)

For further information on the PSR site, please contact:

Sally Thomas, EPA Project Manager, at (206) 553-2102

Chris Cora, EPA Project Manager, at (206) 553-1148

Krista Rave, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (206) 553-6686

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the EPA representatives.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101